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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6919

BILL NUMBER: HB 1996

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 12, 2003

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Transitional Dormitories in Prisons.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Turner

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: ☒ **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: This bill requires the Department of Correction to provide a transitional dormitory at each maximum and medium security facility.

Effective Date: July 1, 2003.

Explanation of State Expenditures: The Department of Correction would incur added costs if it is required to develop a transition dorm at a prison facility by January 1, 2004, Under this bill, eligibility would be based on the following criteria:

- The offender was sentenced for a substance abuse offense.
- The offender has less than 36 months until the offender's expected release date.
- The offender's previous disciplinary history.
- Security risks.
- Demonstrated interest in the transitional program.
- Previous attempts to reside in a transitional dormitory at any penal facility.

The Department of Correction reported that as of November 30, 2001, that 1,832 offenders had a substance abuse crime as their most serious offense and the earliest possible release date was in the next three years. The following shows how these offenders are assigned by security level.

For women, two facilities house offenders who are in Levels 2, 3, and 4. For men, 14 facilities house offenders in Levels 1 through 5.

Offenders in DOC Facilities Sentenced for a Substance Abuse Crime and Projected to be Discharged Within The Next Three Years Compared with Total Offender Populations							
		Female			Male		
Security Level	Offenders housed in:	Drug-Related	Total Population	Per-cent	Drug-Related	Total Population	Per-cent
2	dormitories	137	886	15%	1,027	9,628	11%
3	cells	5	107	5%	102	2,877	4%
4	cells	0	90	0%	22	3,792	1%
Unclassified		6			38		

The number of staff needed to operate a transitional facility depends on the following factors:

- The type of program offered,
- The type of offenders in these facilities, and
- The physical design of the facility.

Facilities housing Level 3 and 4 offenders may incur additional expenses for implementing a transitional dorm. First, offenders in the Level 3 and 4 security facilities would require more intensive supervision than offenders in the medium security facilities. If more supervision in a transitional unit is needed, either additional staff would need to be hired or facility personnel may need to be reassigned from other units of the facility depending on administrative decision. Second, if no dormitories already exist on the facility campus, the facility may need to construct new dormitories. Building new dormitories would free up more cells to accommodate added offenders.

Since all offenders in Level 2 facilities are housed in dorms, the added costs for creating a transition dorm are likely to be minimal. Consequently, it is possible that the dorm facilities can be rearranged so that all drug offenders can be housed in the same dorm area.

Until May 17, 2002, DOC operated a transition unit at the Westville Correctional Facility. As an illustration of the cost of a transitional dormitory, DOC reports that the transitional unit's per diem cost was \$54.71 and had 75 active staff for 191 offenders as compared to \$57.52 for the per diem cost of the entire Westville Facility.

DOC would also be required to evaluate and submit its findings to the Legislative Council on the transitional dormitory program by July 1, 2007.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Department of Correction, Indiana Legislative Council

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources: Planning Division, Department of Correction

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